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Tragedies Of Early Days In Arizona Are Recalled By Thos. D. Malloy Of Yuma

Barney Martin And Gribble Murders In The Late 80's Have Seldom Been Equalled In Atrocity And Coldbloodedness-Both Murders Are Inter-Related And The Writer Herewith Corrects Many Errors Which Have Crept Into Their Account As A Permanent Record For Future Histories Of Arizona

By Tom Molloy April 6, 1921.

right on my part to be classed as a real pioneer of Arizona. That honor belongs, as to Yuma county, to such In response to your request to fur-uously a resident of Arizona since ish some reminiscences of the early 1856; Joe Redondo, who came as a days in Arizona, the following is child in '59; Oscar F, Townsend, who submitted:

While well within your classification of "Arizona Pioneers." I wish to disclaim, if not deprecate, any ungallant as to record, suffice to say

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been a pleasure and a privilege to bear so im-

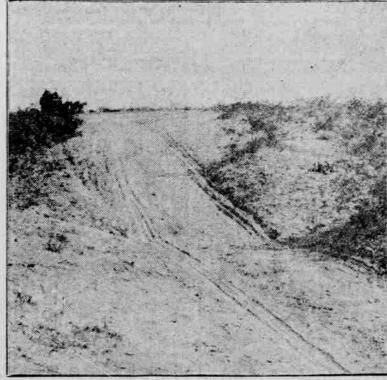
portant a part in this great constructive pro-

For the future we only ask that consideration which is our right through those broad policies

of constructive helpfulness that have made pos-

sible our success in the past.

SCENE OF THE GRIBBLE MURDER



This picture was taken at Nigger Wells, between the Hassayampa and Agua Fria rivers, soon after the murder of Cyrus Gribble, John Williams and Charles Doolittle at that spot. The remains of the horse shot down at the time of the murder can be dimly seen in the foreground. The old stage is coming over the hill,

neers, but we are anxiously awaiting the publication of your Special Pioneer Edition, so that it may be determined who, if anyone row its determined who, if anyone, now liv-

In the spring of 1866, at Stanton, on the south side of the Weaver Mountains, at the foot of Antelope hill, there were living and doing business, in the way of dispensing accommodations for man and beast, two Irishmen, Barbesing accommodations for man and beast and and S. P. Stanton, a bachelor, There was nothing distinctive about Barbesing distinctive about Barbesing distinctive about Barbesing accommodation for man and S. P. Stanton, a bachelor, There was nothing distinctive about Barbesing distinctive about Barbesing distinctive about Barbesing distinctive about Barbesing decents of Stanton. He at one attended to the Martin, but a great deal of mystery, no doubt the same depression in the desert where the Nigger Well is situated, there was found the tracks of a wagon that had turned out of the well about one bundend feet or thereabouts by his partner piling rocks on top of him. That well is located in the depression in the desert of the well about one hundred for the well about one hundred on the well about one hundred or the well about one hundred or the well about one hundred for the well about one hundred or the well about one hundred or the well about one hundred for the well about one hundred for the well about one hundred for the well open in the well about one hundred for the well about one hundred for the well about o

hat it long ante-dated October, 1882, and part hearsay, some of the hear-

from wreaking a just vengeance upon the murderer of her husband (but that is another story, which may not even yet be told); I shall refrain fate of their race, did not get along

chase price is not at all certain.

Anyway he started for Phoenix in a know are not willing to tell, for most light wagon drawn by four small obvious reasons—the statute of limitutles, with his wife and family. On tation does not run against murder the way they stopped at Seymour, where Harry Cowell was keeping the process of the proc re Harry Cowell was keeping the!

about the size of a large washtub, created when Frenchy Debaud ex-pended 2690 pounds of giant powder in the killing of one coyote—which is another story, that was well told by Editor Spear in the Arizona Repub-lican nearly twenty years ago. De-baud died for his country in Cuba during the Spanish-American war. And, with apologies to Coleridge:

other Nigger Well, and the names have frequently been confounded. Of course, neither one of them was a well in any true sense but simply a deep hole dug in the ground in the vain attempt to procure water. The Desert Well is located about 12 miles

Desert Well is located about 12 miles from the Upper Crossing of the Agua Fria and almost at the junction of the

road from the lower Agua Fria cross-ing; and close to that well there should now be a hole in the ground

place more than a week before that time and no one had met them, and he desired to know if the Martin family had reached Phoenix. Billy own threshold. There were many Blankenship and others immediately in this cavalcade, but as soon as made inquiries from all the corrals Kelly heard the shots, showing that where of course Martin must have

where, of course, Martin must have he did not belie his name, and that where, of course, Martin must have he did not belle his name, and that put up, with no results. Then rescue he belonged to the fighting race, he parties were organized, and the desert searched. When finally murder was suspected, the dry wells were to the front door of the store, fired examined with looking glasses for into the retreating horsemen with

At this point it may be well to explain that there were in the very sarly days two wells attempted to be tog upon the desert between the larger party of the store, fired into the retreating horsemen with fatal effect as to one of them, who died as suddenly as did Stanton. There were to be two inquests held as quickly as a coroner could be togued to the store, fired into the retreating horsemen with fatal effect as to one of them.

carly days two wells attempted to be dug upon the desert between the Agua Fria and the Hassayampa— one known as Desert Well, and the other Nigger Well, and the names have frequently been confounded.

killed; and who he was, or whence he came, is yet, a mystery. Again dame rumor was busy. It was said that Stanton had received all of the boodle from the Martin murders, and

that he had failed and refused to divide the spoils with the men who had actually and foully won them.

and that in revenge Stanton's co-murderers had killed him. But that is another mystery, that probably will

Thus ended the Martin tragedy, ex-

cept for the horror of the event, and

From the winter of '86-87 till som

months after the Gribble murders I drove the Jack Baker ten-mule team

hauling supplies from Phoenix to the Vulture, including monthly consign-

ments of cash to meet pay-day checks. No doubt that aggravated

my terror, but I knew others, who were without fear, to mention Vega's

name with uneasiness. It was said that he had a rendezvous at Castle Dome, from out of which he might

sally forth at any time and rob and assessinate the wayfarer. But later investigations and a residence of ov

In those days there were no rail-

miles by team of some sort from the

never be solved-unless those sh

speak, for whom silence is safety.

The Gribble Murders

the terror created by the name

rancisco Vega,

tradition says that in the digging of the well one of the owners of the ven-

diligent inquiry, has failed to dis-close that anyone of the name of Francisco Vega was ever known to roads and no automobiles. There-fore, the bullion produced at the Vul-Vulture to Phoenix. In March, 1888, the superintendent of the Vulture mine was Cyrus Gribble. He had in they found that the wagon had been destroyed by fire, except the tires and such portions as were not com-bustible, and in the ashes and cin-ders were found the remnants of the him an immense stock of egotism and bullheadedness. His predecessor, Elmore, was impressed with the terror of Vega's name, and being desirous even yet be told); I shall refrain fate of their race, did not get along from detailing merely personal experience, and shall confine myself to correcting some slight errors that have crept into some histories of Arizona, concerning two Arizona tragedies of the late '80s—Barney Martin there had been any chance for religious rivairy in those days at Stantragodies of the late '80s—Barney Martin mules were tigious rivairy in those days at Stantragodies of the late '80s—Barney Martin mules were different and an unborn babe. The wagon. The Martin mules were turned loose at that point. Immunity and the Gribble murders. Those tragedies, often equaled, no doubt, but rarely exceeded, in atrodoubt, but rarely exceeded, in atrodoubt rarely exceeded, in atrodoubt rarely exceeded, in a trodoubt rarely exceeded, in a trodou of avoiding hold-ups as much as pos sible, managed so that few knew jus Those two tragedles are so intimately connected in fiction and in fact that it is impossible to give an intelligent account of one tragedly without detailing the history of the other. What follows will be in part the result of observation, part legend, where and how he received the purchase price is not at all certain.

But while no one knew for For the information of those who are not pioneers, it may be well to state that during the many years that the Vulture mine was worked. Stanton; and that the motive for the and prior to the excellence of the control state that during the many years that the Vulture mine was worked, and prior to the erection of a stamp mill upon the ground, the Vulture ores were milled at different times, at three points on the Hassayampa—Wickenburg, Seymour and Smith's Mill. Smith's Mill being about 12 miles south of Wickenburg, and Seymour being intermediate. Water being available at those places, stations, or roadhouses, were thereafter established for the convenience of travelers. And during the period of this story Harry Cowell was keeping the station at Seymour, and Bill Gahan at Smith's Mill.

The Martin family stayed over night at Seymour, and left early next morning to make the 30-mile drive to water—25 miles if they intended to make the Lower Crossing of the Agua other travelers put in to Seymour, Harry asked: "Did you meet Earney," but no one had met Barney," but no one had met Barney," but no one had met Barney, and no one, except their murderers, ever again saw Barney Martin, or any

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member of his family, living, or dead, for that matter.

Finally Harry Cowell became serbad any reason to believe that violence had been done to Martin and his family, but that an accident might have perished for want of water, and he sent word to Phoenix that Earney Martin and his family had left his place and someone called Martin and his family had left his place more than a week before that

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